

## **CARL-CRKN Joint Open Access Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference and Mode of Operation**

#### **Approved:**

**CRKN Board of Directors, April 1, 2011**

**CARL Board of Directors May, 3, 2011**

#### **Background**

Interest in and momentum toward open access to the results of publicly-funded research is evident in numerous ways in Canada and internationally: university mandates, institutional repositories, granting agency policies, funding programs for authors who publish in open access journals, disciplinary archives and open access publishing by Canadian journals and academic presses. Public access to research findings has the potential to stimulate economic development and benefit Canadians broadly. Open access is a shared interest of CARL and CRKN, with both organizations identifying objectives and actions within their current strategic plans:

##### **CARL Strategic Plan 2010-2012**

CARL will encourage the archiving of articles in digital repositories by researchers and will promote the adoption of open access mandates at universities and the national funding councils. It will investigate and promote sustainable business models for open access scholarly publishing.

##### **CRKN Strategic Plan 2010-2012**

CRKN will work collaboratively with content creators and publishers on best practices, new access/economic models, and alternative publishing models for provision of expanded and diversified digital content.

#### **Objective**

The objective of the Open Access Working Group (OAWG) is to collaboratively advance the exploration and promotion of sustainable open access models as an element of a cost-effective scholarly content ecosystem in Canada.

#### **Actions**

1. Consider Canadian past successes, challenges and future opportunities for stimulating the advancement of open access models that expand the dissemination of scholarly research and reduce financial pressures on libraries and researchers.
2. Consider the CARL and CRKN expertise relevant to strategies for advancing open access and develop future scenarios for leveraging that expertise.
3. Investigate and recommend practical ways to incorporate open access into content agreements, including development of model licensing enabling timely deposit of published articles in open access repositories.

## **Membership**

- 6 librarians appointed jointly by the CARL Scholarly Communication Committee (SCC) and the CRKN Board, from the CARL and CRKN membership, who offer expertise in open access initiatives and diversity in region and size of institution, one of whom serves on the CRKN Negotiations Resource Team. At least three of the members will be from CARL member libraries, and at least one will be from a CRKN member institution that does not have a CARL member library.
- 1 non-librarian holding an academic appointment at a Canadian University, appointed jointly by CRKN and CARL, and whose participation will be jointly supported.
- To facilitate the working group's reporting to CARL and CRKN, the chair will be a member of both organizations.

The CARL and CRKN Executive Directors and the President of CARL and the Chair of the CRKN Executive Committee are entitled to participate in all meetings of the OAWG, but do not have votes. At the discretion of the OAWG Chair and in consultation with the Executive Directors, other CARL and CRKN staff may participate in meetings and serve as resource personnel, as required.

## **Appointment Process**

- The members, including the Chair, are appointed jointly by the CARL SCC and the CRKN Board.

## **Lines of Accountability and Communication**

- The OAWG is accountable to the CARL SCC and the CRKN Board.
- The Chair of the OAWG reports on its activities to each organization and submits written recommendations as appropriate.
- Minutes and reports of the OAWG are not confidential unless determined so by the OAWG.

## **Financial and Administrative Policies**

- Service on the OAWG is non-remunerative.
- Travel and meeting expenses for OAWG members are reimbursed according to the policies of CARL and CRKN.
- Members of the OAWG comply with CARL and CRKN Board-approved governance and organizational policies, including code of conduct and conflict of interest policies.
- Insofar as it may be feasible, discussions of the OAWG will be conducted by teleconference.

## **Timeframe**

- The OAWG will commence in June 2011, following the Spring CARL and CRKN Board meetings.

- A draft report with recommendations will be presented to and discussed by the CRKN Board and the CARL SCC in May-June 2012.
- The amended report and recommendations will be presented to the CARL and CRKN Boards July-August 2012.
- A final report will be distributed to CRKN and CARL members before the CRKN Annual General Meeting in September 2012.